

Giessen students back in class

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Returning to school after summer vacation marks an important date for many students as it is their first chance to talk to many of their friends after the long summer break.

"My first day was good. We got some candy in class and I met all of my friends again. Summer was OK because we did some fun trips to places like Disneyland, but sometimes I was bored. That's why it is good to come back to school," said Giessen Elementary School third-grader Deandre Boles.

"Today was pretty good. The teacher gave us a piece of paper and we had to decorate it. That was the best part of today. I was busy this summer and I had fun, but I am happy to be back to school because I can learn more things," said Howard Smith, a second-grader.

"I've already learned a lot of things about third grade today," said Franziska Reichert. "Our teacher showed us the inside and outside of the school and she told us what we will learn in third grade. The best part about school is that all of my friends are in my class except for my friend Riley. She is new and goes to another class," she said.

"I just arrived in Germany and the first day of school was a lot of fun because my teacher is a real funny teacher. She told us today that she is pregnant. First it was a shock for us and we did not believe her. She asked us, 'Do you think I ate too much and that's why my belly is huge?' That was funny. We are happy for her and very excited," said fourth-grader Rebecca Seidel.

But friends old and new are not the only exciting part of returning to school. "I also got a whole lot of new clothes for school. Most of them we bought in the States before we came over here," she said, adding that the beginning of the new school year also means she is getting closer to reunion with her deployed father.

"I saw a video of him [via video tele conferencing] a couple of days ago. I really miss him a lot. I wish I could see a video every day but I guess that is not possible," Seidel said. "This summer was not as much fun because Dad was not here with us. We do a lot more stuff when he's around. We would go swimming to a lake and he would toss us around or we would go boating. But he was not here to drag us around. I hope he is coming back soon and we can do all that



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Giessen Elementary School students help the school's PTSA recruit volunteers for upcoming events.

fun stuff together."

"It was very exciting to be back to school and to meet new people," said sixth-grader Sarah Smith.

"I had a lot of fun this summer because I went to a lot of amusement parks with Youth Services, but sometimes I got very lonely. Just two weeks ago I met my new friend Rebecca [Seidel]. She just returned to Germany and now lives in my neighborhood. I wish I had met her sooner because we would have had a lot of fun this summer. I know she misses her dad a lot because he is deployed. I am lucky that my dad is here," she said.

"The first day of school was fun and I have a very nice teacher, so that's good. Today the school has the Open House, and my friends and I are helping the Parent, Teacher and Student Association to recruit volunteers for the book fair and bingo," Smith said.

"It's fun to come back to school because I got bored sometimes. My teacher is real funny so I think I will have a good time in school. The best part though is that the more times passes by the closer we are getting to having Dad back home. I think he comes back in April. Now that summer is over it's less time waiting for him," said fifth-grader Va'a Ma'o.

Smith wins 284th BSB SORT award

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Julie Smith, resident of McArthur Housing in Friedberg was nominated as the third 284th Base Support Battalion Separate or Recycle Trash award winner.

"I selected Julie because she called me one day and suggested that we place recycling bins in the basements of the housing areas so that housing residents can recycle their detergent containers," said 284th BSB SORT coordinator Paul Koontz.

"I noticed that all the empty detergent boxes were always laying around in the laundry room. I always picked them up and recycled them at my apartment. One day I called Mr. Koontz and asked him to place some recycle bins in our basement," Smith said.

"Recycling is the law and I think we all should participate. At first it's a little extra work but it also means less garbage at home," she said.

By having recycling bins in the basement of her building Smith hopes to encourage neighbors to participate in the SORT pro-

gram, she said.

"It's the right thing to do, and it does not take that much effort. And it is really amazing to see how many of the glass, containers and boxes can be reused," Smith said.

Along with the SORT award Smith received a \$25 AAFES gift certificate and a radio-compact disc system.

How to support SORT:

- ★ Reuse paper and plastic shopping bags.
- ★ Purchase beverages in returnable bottles or cases.
- ★ Buy products that are made of recycled materials.
- ★ Bring your lunch to work or school in reusable containers instead of plastic bags.
- ★ Recycle newspapers, cardboard, magazines and catalogs, paper egg cartons and clean pizza box tops in the blue container.
- ★ Break down and flatten cardboard boxes.
- ★ Do not put moving boxes into the blue paper container. The movers are getting paid to pick up the boxes.
- ★ Milk cartons and wax paper go into the yellow bag and disposable diapers and soiled paper towels go into the garbage. For more information call mil343-7161.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Lt. Col. Bart Shreve, 284th Base Support Battalion commander, surprises Julie Smith with the BSB's third SORT award at her desk at the Friedberg Community Bank.

Gunner soldier receives Purple Heart

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Pfc. Christopher Garza, a cannon crewman with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2-3rd Field Artillery, was awarded the Purple Heart by 1st Armored Division assistant commander, Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling, in a ceremony at the battalion's headquarters in Giessen Aug. 28.

Shrapnel from a rocket propelled grenade wounded Garza in an attack June 1 while he guarded a site in Baghdad outside the Abu Hanifa Mosque, known to American soldiers as the Marine Mosque, while manning a .50-caliber machine gun in the turret of a Carrier, Ammunition Tracked Vehicle.

"Whenever someone sees Pfc. Garza their eyes will be drawn to the Purple Heart because it marks great courage and valor. This ribbon is awarded for wounds received in action, and not many soldiers have this award," said Hertling.

"I remember when I was first notified about the attack. We were in country for a few days, the guys were the first day on the streets and then I get the message that they are responding to an attack. It was the

hardest 10 minutes in my life," said Capt. Allan Selburg, HHB, 2-3rd FA commander.

During the ambush, which lasted about 45 minutes, Garza's noncommissioned officer, Sgt. Wasim Kahn, was wounded. While he was being treated by battalion medics Garza, also wounded by shrapnel, provided cover.

"Despite his own wounds Pfc. Garza was more concerned about his NCO, and when the Quick Reaction Force

arrived he directed them first toward the direction of the attack," said Selburg. "He also attempted

to return to his position, but was ordered not to."

As the soldiers received additional small arms fire Garza continued to return fire despite injuries to his eye, face, arms and back. He was wounded again during the firefight. "He continued to return the fire and directed the QRF to the direction of the enemy fire. He had to be ordered to move from his position to finally receive treatment," Selburg said.

Garza was evacuated through the brigade aide station to Camp

Dogwood and finally to the States, where his eye injury was treated.

"Now he is back with the battalion's rear detachment. Ever since he first came to the battalion he showed a lot of promise, and I know he will do well. He will only have trouble with the airport security for a while because he still has shrapnel in his body," Selburg said.

The attack has changed Garza's plans on what he wanted to do in Iraq, but not how he feels about the Army, he said.

"Of course the situation was odd. It was our fourth day in country and we were on our first mission, and suddenly we were being ambushed. I felt a warm sensation and then pain, but I just blocked it out. My will to live and to protect my NCO just kept me going," he said.

"Originally I planned to go over there and not to fire one round. I wanted to help the Iraqi people. But it's a different situation being over there because you see children with AK-47s and you just don't know whom to trust so you are always alert. Now I am very grateful for all the training we received from 1st Sgt. Kenneth Cooper. It saved our lives," Garza said.

"I still have to stay in Giessen for a while, but once I am healed up I want to go back to where my bud-



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling presents Pfc. Christopher Garza with a certificate after pinning on the Purple Heart.

dies are. As a matter of fact I will re-enlist this year. I always wanted to be a soldier ever since I was a kid

and what has happened is not going to stop me from making a career in the Army," he said.

Being right on the money

Commentary by Chaplain
(Capt.) Charles Ehrhart
284th Base Support Battalion chaplain

While moving from Korea to Germany earlier this year I came across a sign that said in part "right on the money."

It's a curious phrase. To be "right on the money" means that we are emphasizing the fact that what we say is absolutely correct. We say it to indicate that a statement is absolutely right, or the final word on a subject. It's funny that we use such a colloquial phrase to make our point.

Our native English language is arguably the most difficult to master. After almost 70 years of speaking English I still boast that the most used book in my library, after the Bible, is an English dictionary. Often I also refer to a thesaurus. The proper pronunciation and enunciation of words can give us all fits and starts, and thereby hangs a tale (not a tail).

As in any language English is rich with idiomatic usage and unique colloquialisms. The phrase "fits and starts" as used above is just one such example. While it has several possible meanings, in the sense

that I used it above it has the meaning of giving a speaker trouble with correct pronunciation and enunciation.

No less idiomatic is the phrase "right on the money."

The first part of the sign I referred to spoke of the existence of God in our way of life and God's effect on us.

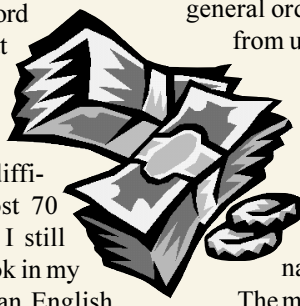
Even George Washington recognized the presence of the almighty in one of his general orders, which forbade his soldiers from using God's name in profanity.

Gen. Washington's rationale was that we could not on the one hand ask for help, guidance and blessings on our endeavors in our prayers while at the same time using the creator's name in the profanities of the day.

The message on the sign I saw said, "in God we trust." For emphasis the last line stressed this point by noting "it's right on the money."

It's a strange way indeed to emphasize the existence of God and our dependence on him.

Do you have any U.S. currency in your pocket? Look at it and you will see "In God we trust" is "right on the money."



Funky Chicken Month specials

Car service

In celebration of Funky Chicken Month the Giessen Auto Skills Center offers 10 percent off on every **car detailing package**. Service includes exterior hand wash, vacuuming, window and tire cleaning. A **car tune up** class is held Sept. 21 from noon to 6 p.m. Cost is \$18. The Friedberg Auto Skills Center offers **tire balancing** for \$10 throughout Sept. A **car tune up** workshop takes place Sept. 23 from noon to 6 p.m. Cost is \$18. For more information call the Giessen Auto Skill center at mil 343-7050 or the Friedberg Center at mil 324-3218.

October Fest getaway

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program takes a trip to the October Fest Sept. 27-28. Cost for singles soldiers is \$30. For details call BOSS representative Frank Rojas at mil 324-3158.

Crafts classes

The Giessen Arts and Crafts Shop hosts a Kids Crafts workshop every Thursday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Cost is \$5.50 including materials. A Scrapbook class is held every Tuesday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The fee is \$10 including materials. A Photo Memory Box class takes place Sept. 30 from 4-5 p.m. Cost

is \$15. The Friedberg Arts and Crafts Shop hosts a Kids Class Sept. 23 and Oct. 7 starting at 5 p.m. Cost is \$5.50 including supplies. A Plastic Canvas class takes place Sept. 25 from 6-7 p.m. It costs \$10. For more information call Giessen at mil 343-6445 or Friedberg at mil 324-3266.

Crafts Flea Market

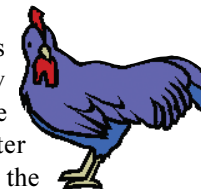
Giessen Arts and Crafts sponsors a Crafts Flea Market Sept. 20 from 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$10 per table. Display your handmade items. For details call mil 343-6445.

Funky Chicken Bowl

The Giessen Bowling Center hosts a Funky Chicken Bowl Sept. 20 and 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Funky discount rates are offered on those dates. For details call mil 343-7702.

Funky Chicken run, walk

The 284th BSB sports office hosts a Funky Chicken Month 10-mile run and three-kilometer family walk Sept. 20 at the Schiffenberg Castle near Giessen. Cost is \$15 including a T-shirt or \$10 without a shirt. For more information call the Miller Hall Fitness Center at mil 343-7201.



284th BSB — Friedberg, Giessen

Community spotlight

Commander's Hotline

The 284th Base Support Battalion now has a Commander's Hotline. The hotline is connected to an answering machine and can be reached at mil 343-9999 or civ (0641) 402-9999 and is available 24/7. Residents can call this number to make recommendations on how the 284th BSB can improve its services. The caller has the option to leave his or her name and phone number or email address for a response, or remain anonymous. Topics of the call may be discussed in subsequent issues of the *Herald Union*. The hotline is not to be used to call in housing work orders, but is strictly for issues community members feel have not been addressed to their satisfaction.

Thanks, Greg Franklin

Bad Nauheim Boy Scout Troop 41 would like to thank Greg Franklin of Friedberg BMW Military Car Sales for a generous cash donation. The money enabled the boys to attend their August summer camp.

Board games, reading materials sought

The 284th Base Support Battalion sports staff is collecting board games and reading material for soldiers from Giessen and Friedberg serving in the Middle East. Donations will be divided up by unit and sent monthly. Collection points are the Friedberg Fitness Center and the Giessen Fitness Center. For more information call mil 324-3155 or mil 343-7201.

Separation counseling

The Army Career and Alumni Program offers pre-separation counseling every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by appointment

from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The briefing is mandatory at least 90 days before a soldier's ETS date. A mandatory separation briefing hosted by the Transition Office is scheduled for Sept. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at the ACAP office. A How to Get a Job in Germany workshop will be held at the Hanau ACAP office Sept. 30 starting at 9 a.m. For details call Claire Sowinski at mil 343-9332.

Reintegration and reunion counseling

The 284th BSB Chaplain's Office conducts reintegration and reunion counseling for soldiers in Giessen every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to noon, in Friedberg every Wednesday from 1-3:30 p.m. and in Butzbach every Friday from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Call the Chaplain's Office for details at mil 343-8020.

Religious education classes

Registration is ongoing for Giessen Catholic Religious Education classes for children in kindergarten through 12th grade. Registration is every Sunday after Mass at the Chapel. Classes will be conducted every Sunday from 10-11 a.m. For information call Mary Ann Ernst at civ (0641) 4808 762.

Homeschool registration

Parents who homeschool their children must register with the 284th BSB School Liaison Officer Tina Sandall in Building 115, Room 109 on the Giessen Depot. For details call mil 343-7047.

Hispanic Fiesta

The 284th BSB Morale Welfare and Recreation office hosts a Hispanic American Heritage Fiesta Sept. 20 from noon to 6 p.m. at Butzbach Elementary School. Activities



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Welcome back Butzbach students

Talented and Gifted Program teacher Sue Alldaffer of Butzbach Elementary School greets students on their first day back.

are planned for children and adults including food sampling, pinata making, music and dancing, a chili cook-off and traditional Hispanic clothing contest. The event is free and open to all ID card holders and local national employees.

Children's movie days

Giessen Army Community Service sponsors Children's Movie day, a learning activity for children under 5 and their parents, on Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon at Giessen ACS and every Tuesday at the Butzbach Outreach Center from 9-11 a.m. For details call Deborah Gantt at mil 343-6039 or Anastasia Chase at civ (06033) 925 329.

Parents Night Out

The 284th Base Support Battalion Child and Youth Services hosts a Parents Night Out Sept. 19 from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at the Butzbach Child Development Center and Oct. 3 from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at the Giessen CDC. Cost is \$5 per child including dinner and a snack. Children must be CLEOS registered. For details call Central Registration in Giessen at civ (0641) 402-8216.

Weekend child care

Super Saturday child care is offered Oct. 4 at the Giessen Child Development Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Oct. 18 at the Butzbach CDC from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Children must be 11 or younger and CLEOS regis-

tered. For more information call Giessen CDC at civ (0641) 402-6200 and Butzbach at civ (06033) 67922.

Childbirth preparation class set for Oct. 4

The New Parent Education and Support Program provides valuable information to help parents prepare physically and mentally for a new baby Oct. 4 at 10 a.m. at Giessen Army Community Service. For information call Belinda Sims or Tamara Smith in Giessen at mil 343-9311/8076/7618 or in Friedberg at mil 324-3421/3465.

Stress Management classes

Butzbach Army Community Service offers classes in stress management Oct. 8 from 9:30-11 a.m. Giessen hosts classes Oct. 20 from 1-3 p.m. For information call Giessen ACS at mil 343-8076, civ (0641) 402-8076 or Friedberg ACS at mil 324-3465, civ (06031) 81-3465.

Tea Time at Butzbach Outreach Center

The Butzbach Outreach Center hosts Tea Time every morning from 8:15-9 a.m. at the center. Residents are invited every morning for tea, coffee and conversation. For details call Anastasia Chase at civ (06033) 925 329.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Keeping it together at ACS

Spouses of deployed soldiers gather at 284th Base Support Battalion Army Community Service for mutual support. ACS offers activities including Hearts Apart and Soup's On luncheons, fitness walks, financial management classes, multi-cultural support groups and employment readiness workshops. For more information call ACS in Giessen at mil 343-7618 and in Friedberg at mil 324-3465.

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

Catamounts improve colleges in Baghdad

16th Engineer Battalion supplies labor, supplies to help leaders of the future

By Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson and Alexandra Williams

372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and 284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division's 16th Engineer Battalion have spent the past few weeks rebuilding and re-supplying Baghdad's institutions of higher learning.

"We have been working the last 40 days doing emergency repairs and maintenance at the Women's College of Islamic Studies at the Bab al-Muadam campus of Baghdad University," said Lt. Col. John Kem, battalion commander. "The whole place was completely looted, but we got power restored, installed fans and repaired or replaced essentials in 250 classrooms."

Universities were in need of repair

Baghdad's universities were in dire need of repair after looters and thieves stripped every building of everything from electrical wires to plumbing fixtures. Kem and his soldiers have deadlines to meet for different milestones in the university's school year, and new ones are coming up.

"We worked hard to get them ready for exams that started July 12," said Kem. "The next step is to get further upgrades for classes that start at the end of September." The projects cover a wide range of needs, but are all focused toward the same goal, he said.

"The Iraqi people have been stifled in the past in their intellectual and academic freedoms. To really move forward they must have these freedoms because these young people are the leaders of the future. We want this country to move forward and make transitions, and these are the people who are going to do it," he said.

"We gave them five photocopy machines for each college, different furniture, air conditioning units, replaced the window glass and fixed their electrical generators," said Spc. Justin Blackburn, combat engineer with 16th Engineers.

"We fixed up the kitchens and the wiring. Today we are bringing in mattresses and pillows for the 350 Iraqi female students who will be staying at one of the dorms," Kem said.

Kem said he meets with school staff once a week to discuss repair progress and the next course of action to be taken on campus. His soldiers enjoy working around the campuses, not only for the change of pace it provides to their other missions, but because it satisfies the will to help others that is part of the American spirit, he said.

"Americans like to help people. We are a blessed and fortunate country, and we like to give others the same opportunities. It really is part of our history and our heritage," said Kem.



Photo by Sgt. Mark E. Bell

Pfc. Jerry Szymczyk of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Battalion, carries new mattresses and pillows into a five-story dormitory that serves 350 students at the Women's College of Islamic Studies at Baghdad University. The campus is in the heart of the Iraqi capital.

The Baghdad School of Languages, severely damaged in the aftermath of the war, is also on the battalion's project list. Kem called

on the battalion's rear detachment to organize support in Giessen. Capt. Casey Connors, the 16th's rear detachment commander, received and forwarded a letter from Kem to the dean of the University of Giessen.

"Lt. Col. Kem thought that they probably have old books they no longer use. My battalion could deliver those books to the language school," Connors said.

"In his letter Lt. Col. Kem explained our battalion's mission in Iraq and he wrote that after the war the school lost 95 percent of its books and other precious resources. The only books that were saved were those that were taken home by students and returned to the library after calm was restored. Unfortunately all their German books were destroyed. That's why my commander suggested we ask Giessen University for support."

The university's dean, Prof. Dr. Stefan Hormuth, promised to support the project. Within weeks Connors learned the university library had prepared a donation of about 500 books.

"I was really surprised that they had so many books. We really appreciate the support. Prof. Dr. Hormuth told me that actually universities do not really have large numbers of books they do not use, so I would have never expected that many," Connors said.

"We are happy that we can support the project," said assistant library director Dr. Ira Kasperowski. "Most of the books are from double deliveries or other libraries that could spare them. We are glad that we can help out others," she said.

Community spotlight

One-act plays at Keller Theater

Keller Theater presents "Ones for the Road," an evening of one-act plays Sept. 19, 20, 25-27, Oct. 2-4 starting at 7:30 p.m. Box office hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 4:30-8 p.m. For information call David Turner at mil343-6515.

Bingo in Butzbach

The Hearts and Hands Community Club will sponsor bingo at Butzbach Elementary Sept. 19. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.; bingo starts at 7 p.m. For details call Juli Thome at civ (06031)688835.

German Canteen hours

The German Canteen located in Building 32 is open Monday to Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Breakfast and lunch are available. The

lunch menu changes daily and free coffee refills and daily specials are featured.

Jammie and Judi in the Morning

Stay tuned to the American Forces Network's Z-98 from 7-9 a.m. every Friday to catch up-to-the minute news about the 284th BSB. Join Jammie and Judi in the Morning for the latest happenings in the Butzbach, Friedberg and Giessen communities. Contact them at j&jshow@104asg.mwr.army.mil for more information.

SNAP seeks volunteers

The 284th BSB Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program is looking for volunteers to safeguard the community by actively observing their surroundings. Prior training

is required, and after completion free classes are offered on personal protection, child safety, first aid and more. Participants must be at least 17 and reside in 284th BSB housing areas. For details call Tina Gonzales at mil343-6500.

German head start classes for family members

The Education Center in Friedberg offers German head start classes for family members for the duration of the deployment. Classes take place Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To enroll call Renate Feldmann at the Giessen Education Center at mil343-7152/8103.

Red Cross hours

The Giessen Red Cross office is open Monday to Friday from 8-10 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. For emergencies at other times call the Hanau Red

Cross at mil322-1760 or civ (06181)88-1760.

Outdoor Rec goes to the October Fest

The 284th BSB Outdoor Recreation Center goes to the October Fest in Munich Oct. 4-5. The trip includes one overnight, breakfast in Garmisch and a visit to Neuschwanstein Castle. Fees are \$139 per person. For more information call mil343-8202.

Translator service

The Butzbach Outreach Center provides German translating service every Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. to help with those mind-boggling letters or calls to local vendors. For details call civ (06033)925329.

Thrift consignments

The Thrift Stores are now accepting winter items for consignment. For details contact Juli Thome civ (06031)688835.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Around the community ... Around the community

Redeployment training

A redeployment briefing is required by the 104th Area Support Group. Soldiers redeploying to PCS or ETS will not be cleared by Army Community Service until they have taken this briefing. The briefing is about an hour long and is held every Friday at 9 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. in the ACS conference room, Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne. For more information call LaAnna Harlow at mil 322-9281.

Change of command

Capt. Matthew A. Phelps assumed command of the 414th Base Support Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company from Capt. Lewis W. Evans in a ceremony at Pioneer Fitness Center Sept. 8. While deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Phelps commanded the 702nd Transportation Company (Provisional). Phelps and his wife, Kelli, have three children, Ella, 4, Claire, 2, and a newborn, Matthew.

Polish Pottery Bingo Sept. 24

The American Red Cross is having a Polish pottery bingo night Sept. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hanau High School cafeteria. There will be nine chances to win: seven games plus coverall, and a special bingo game at the end. For more information call Bianca Moton at civ (0160) 910-52378 or the Red Cross office at mil 322-1760.

Frazer Coffee Shop opens

The Frazer Coffee Shop is up and brewing. Enjoy a cup of gourmet coffee and a warm atmosphere while reading or surfing the Internet. The coffee shop is open Monday to Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The coffee shop is located in the Hanau Community Activity Center on Fliegerhorst Kaserne.

Racquetball tournament

Pioneer Fitness Center is sponsoring a Hispanic Heritage Month Racquetball Tournament Sept. 18 starting at 4:30 p.m. There is no charge to compete and there will be awards for the first, second and

third place finishers. To register call mil 322-8197 or civ (06181) 888197.

Surviving the FRG

Learn all the skills you need to survive a Family Readiness Group. Learn what an FRG is and is not, how to run a meeting or how to create a newsletter. This free two-day class is open to everyone associated with FRGs. The class will be held Sept. 23-24 at the Wolfgang Outreach Center. To sign up call

Rick Krenz at mil 322-5308 or civ (06181) 88-5308 or email rick.krenz@104asg.mwr.army.mil.

Casualty assistance training

The 414th Base Support Battalion Casualty Office will conduct casualty assistance training for military retirees who are now civilian employees of the BSB Sept. 23 at 1:30 p.m. in the 414th BSB conference room, Building 451 on Old Argonner Kaserne. This training is mandatory to be appointed as a casualty assistance officer. To attend this class a person should have been a sergeant first class or above at the time of retirement. This program matches the family of a military retiree who has passed away with a casualty assistance officer. The BSB needs people to help family members deal with their loss by providing assistance with the arrangements and paperwork involving a death in the family. The casualty assistance officer will be given a car if needed and the commander supports any overtime it takes to perform these duties. For more information contact Capt. Breck Tarr, 414th BSB adjutant, at mil 322-8144.

Hispanic Heritage Month Festival Oct. 4

The Hanau community celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month Oct. 4 at the Pioneer Fitness Center. Activities begin at 10 a.m. and continue all day. Enjoy food, folk dances, children's games, door prizes, displays and music. Everyone is encouraged to bring her or his favorite Spanish dish for sampling. For more information contact Sgt.

1st Class Gayden at mil 322-8012, Dmuggsb@104asg.mwr.army.mil or Mr. Torres at mil 322-8197, torres@hanau.army.mil.

Soccer Midnight Madness

Soccer teams will compete on the evenings of Sept. 26-27 at Pioneer Kaserne starting at 6 p.m. Registration is \$150 per team (no refunds). A limit of 15 players per team is allowed. Awards for first, second and third place team and first and second place individuals. Participants must be 18 years of age or older. For more information call mil 322-8197.

3-on-3 basketball

Compete in a 3-on-3 basketball tournament Sept. 20 starting at 10 a.m. at Pioneer Fitness Center. Registration is \$75 per team (no refunds). A limit of five players per team is allowed. Awards for the first, second and third place teams and first and second place individuals. Participants must be 18 years of age or older. For more information call mil 322-8197.

Story hour volunteers

Preschool story hour volunteers are needed to do crafts and read books to the children every Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at Pioneer Library. Call Christi Bayha at mil 322-9657/8942 to help.

Spouses Education Assistance Program

Do you want to further your education or start on a college degree? Don't miss out on this great opportunity. The Spouse Education Assistance Program is a need-based education assistance program designed for Army spouses residing with active duty soldiers in the Europe, Korea, Japan and Okinawa Commands. The program



Photo by Mary Crawford

Gelnhausen Elementary School first-graders mark the first day of school with a special hot dogs and chips lunch arranged by the Parent Teacher Association.

provides up to \$400 per academic term and up to \$2,000 for the academic year. For more information call ACS at mil 322-8965 or Army Emergency Relief at mil 322-8097.

Steam train rides in Bad Orb

Enjoy an historical steam train ride on Sundays or German holidays through October. The train departs from the city of Bad Orb train station at 11 a.m., 1, 2:30 and 4 p.m. The travel time is about one hour. Reservations for groups can be made. For details go to www.bad-orb.de/dampfkleinbahn.

IACS has new hours of operation

The Installation Access Control System office in Building 24 on Pioneer Kaserne has new hours. It will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closing for lunch from 1-2 p.m. The office also closes 30 minutes before lunch. Access roster requests will be processed in Building 24 and must be submitted 72 hours before the event. Call mil 322-9008/9009, civ (06181) 88-9008/9009.

HCSC annual bazaar

The Hanau Community Spouses Club reminds Hanau community members that its annual bazaar will take place Oct. 24-26 in Building 1304 on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. All local Family Readiness Groups and nonprofit organizations are invited to participate. There is a registration fee of \$75 of which \$50 is reimbursable after the event. For details call HCSC president Bianca Moton at civ (0160) 9105

2378, bianca.moton@us.army.mil, bazaar chairperson Heather Whetstone at civ (06183) 928 147, M_hwhet@hotmail.com or FRG chairperson Rose Mary Buckley at civ (06181) 906 3792, Rose.mary.buckley@us.army.mil.

Army Community Service computer lab

Army Community Service has 13 computers available for soldiers, family members and other authorized users to send email, do school work, manage finances, browse the web or prepare a resume. All computers have Internet access as well as MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint software. The computers are in Building 9, Room 104 and Classroom 2, on Pioneer. Hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. It's open on U.S. Army Europe training holidays, but closed weekends and federal holidays. For information call mil 322-9191.

Auditions set for 'Babes in Toyland'

Hanau's Five Pfennig Playhouse will hold auditions for the Victor Herbert musical "Babes in Toyland" Oct. 11 beginning at 4 p.m. Singers, actors, actresses, children, teens and technicians are sought for the production. Call mil 322-8725 or send an email to 5pfennig@104asg.mwr.army.mil for details.

Go online at ACS

Hanau Army Community Service has a computer lab equipped with Internet access and a wide variety of software applications available for public use in Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne. The lab is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call mil 322-8963 for details.

Get the latest community news on the web at
www.hanau.army.mil

Babysitting classes teach love and care



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Jenna Remily gets hands-on training for diapering and dressing infants at the Red Cross Babysitter Training Class.

Army Family Team Building program offers everyday aid

By Meredith Hummel
Army Family Team Building
Master Trainer

Is your soldier deployed? Are you dealing with an LES for the first time? What is that SGLI on there anyway? Is ACS on your speed-dial? And what does that alphabet-soup of acronyms mean?

Army Family Team Building is a program designed to help spouses overcome the stress and difficulties that often arise when a soldier is deployed. AFTB teaches skills to help cope with Army life and the many challenges it presents.

The training provides information about the different community and military resources available to you. Where exactly do you go to sign up your kids for soccer? What

benefits are you entitled to?

AFTB is also an opportunity to share your concerns with individuals who're going through the same things as you. The more you understand the mission of the Army, the better you're able to cope with the changes that come from long absences. The 414th Base Support Battalion AFTB program's motto is "Know the Army, know yourself."

They'll teach you about the Army's ways and at the same time teach you about yourself. In the end you gain a better understanding of the "big picture."

You can do it; AFTB will show you how. For more information and to sign up for classes call Rick Krenz at mil 322-5308 or civ (06181) 88-5308.

By Dennis Johnson

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs

For teenagers looking to earn a little spending money the Child and Youth Services Education and Outreach Services Teenage Babysitting Program and the American Red Cross can help you find some part-time work. If you are a responsible person and like to play with children the Red Cross is offering its next babysitting class Sept. 20. In this class you'll learn everything necessary to safely and successfully survive an evening with the little angels, or maybe even with little monsters.

"The class teaches the skills needed for what can sometimes be stressful situations, from changing diapers and how to feed a fussy infant to what to do if a stranger comes to the door," said Andrea Harrell, the instructor for the class and a Children and Youth Services training and program specialist.

Babysitting isn't just for girls

And "babysitting" is not just for girls.

"We try to get more boys into the class; it's a perfect way for boys to make money too. We have lots of families with young boys who'd like an older boy to come over and look after their kids. That way they can go out and throw the football around and do boy stuff like that," said Harrell. And not all "babysitting" is with babies. Once a youth has completed the Red Cross class, he or she is eligible to be listed on the CLEOS roster of approved babysitters. Prospective babysitters can indicate the ages they will work with. So, if after the class, the boys are still grossed out changing diapers,

they don't have to work with infants.

The CLEOS Teenage Babysitting Program is available for teens from age 13-18 and offers training in basic first aid, CPR, child abuse and neglect identification and reporting, emergency procedures, developmental programming and basic business practices. One thing the class teaches is for prospective babysitters to hold an interview with parents before agreeing to "sit" for them. The teen will need to know about the ages of the children, if there are any special dietary or medicinal requirements, what days and hours they may be needed to work and discuss the pay scale they desire. The parents too should want to meet the teen they're entrusting their children's safety to.

Parents need a night out too

Parents need to know that CLEOS keeps a list of approved babysitters. These teens have all been through the Red Cross Babysitter Training Class.

ing Class.

All babysitters must have parental permission to be on the list, and the parent must sign a waiver allowing CLEOS to list their teen. CLEOS doesn't just list anyone expressing an interest in babysitting. Sitters are needed in Büdingen, Fliegerhorst, Gelnhausen, Sportsfield, Pioneer, New Argonner and Old Argonner.

Sitters can provide care while parents go out on a date, which is very important during the recent re-deployments, while a parent works late or attends an evening class. Parents can get a copy of the babysitter list by calling CLEOS at mil 322-9144.

The next Red Cross babysitting training is scheduled for Sept. 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The American Red Cross charges a \$40 fee, which includes a textbook. To sign up or for more information call CLEOS at mil 322-9144 or civ (06181) 88-9144.

Making life better for Iraq's citizens

Hanau soldiers help improve relations through public service projects

By Maj. Bob Hookness
16th Corps Support Group S-1

On another warm Iraqi day members of the 16th Corps Support Group Community Action and Assessment Team travel to the Al-Oweesat area, a small village near the group's area of operation. Following up on several projects to assist the local community, soldiers from the 16th CSG Headquarters and 485th Corps Support Battalion visit residents and tribal leaders in their continuing efforts to improve the quality of life and community relations.

The team recently contracted with Iraqi companies to repair water distribution facilities, renovate local schools and improve infrastructure in the remote community on the outskirts of Baghdad. The initiatives generate commerce and focus on improving the quality of life for Iraqi citizens who have suffered in a rural area devoid of many basic necessities. Through a special program group commander Col. Michael C. Sevcik is authorized to disperse funds to directly improve living conditions for the Iraqi communities in the unit's area of operation.

"After 30 years of repression and neglect, many of the amenities in the local communities are in deplorable condition. Anything we can do to assist the children and people of Iraq creates a win-win situation. We help provide the Iraqis with fundamental services and contribute to the conditions for a lasting peace," said Sevcik.

Critical to the success of the team is the participation of Pfc. Ahmed Mahmoud, a fuel operations specialist in the 26th Quartermaster Company. Mahmoud, an Egyptian-American soldier who speaks fluent Arabic, has given the CAAT countless hours of service as an interpreter. Many of the team's leaders tout this junior soldier, nicknamed "Moe," as the key to the team's advancements. "Pfc. Moe's charismatic personality has been the driving force in relationship building that is essential to our success. His heritage and upbringing allowed him to bridge a cultural gap that would have made our job impossible," said a team member.

Moe has become a trusted adviser the team respects and the Iraqis respond to. "Simply put, we couldn't do this without him," said 1st Lt. Troy Belanger of the 317th Support Center, Rear Area Operations Center.

Mahmoud was born Dec. 1, 1982, in Egypt to Moustafa and Reda



Photo by 1st Lt. Tina Fonde

Pfc. John Richardson of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Corps Support Group, hands out candy to local children in the al-Oweesat area in Iraq.

Mahmoud. He is the fifth child in the family with two brothers and four sisters. His family immigrated to the United States in 1995 when Ahmed was 13 years old and settled in Houston, Texas.

Mahmoud is a graduate of Westfield High School and joined the Army in 2002. He's the only member of his immediate family in the armed forces and is currently serving his first tour of duty with the 26th Quartermaster Company, 485th Corps Support Battalion, headquartered in Hanau.

He deployed to Southwest Asia on March 4. Mahmoud said he believes that the CAAT is "doing great things for the Iraqis. My parents never thought I would deploy to Iraq and wind up doing so much to help the Iraq people. They thought I would just be supporting the fighting. I'm not sure I believe it myself. I never thought I would be sitting in the house of an Iraqi sheik having lunch and tea. We've come

a long way since getting here. Knowing that the things I'm doing are helping to keep the Americans in our area safe while helping the Iraqi people is the most rewarding aspect of my involvement with the Community Action and Assessment Team," said Mahmoud.

At the conclusion of his term of service, Mahmoud is planning to either re-enlist as a military intelligence specialist or leave the service to work as a civilian interpreter.

Capt. Amos R. Bennett, HHC, 16th CSG, routinely interacts with the local populace to foster understanding and trust. "We have seen nothing but positive results so far; almost every aspect of the project has met or exceeded our original goals. It's a situation in which everyone benefits. The locals get purified water and better schools for their children; we learn some priceless, life-long lessons and obtain some operational information tips. Both the soldiers and the civilians

are continuously building friendships and trust," said Bennett. Bennett highlighted future plans that include having certain soldiers serve as guest teachers and lecturers, hosting a community picnic

and maximizing opportunities for other types of exchanges.

1st Lt. Tina Fonde, HHC, 16th CSG, serves as the team's project officer. In this capacity she is responsible for meeting with the local sheiks to determine village needs and develop projects to meet those needs. Once the projects are defined, Fonde coordinates the contracts and supervises payments. Although being entrusted with such a large responsibility has its own professional rewards, Fonde said she enjoys interacting with the children the most. "Interacting with the children and witnessing their excitement is providing me with many lasting memories. Knowing that we are making a difference in their future is what this is all about. The other day a little girl pointed to the American flag on my sleeve and said, 'America...good.' It made me feel very thankful, patriotic and proud," said Fonde.

Despite an environment in Iraq that continues to be unpredictably hostile with pockets of terrorist and criminal activity, the 16th CSG Community Action and Assessment Team has developed relationships with community officials and tribal leaders that is promoting area stability and saving lives.

By contributing to the welfare of the Iraqi people and promoting an understanding of each other's culture, the soldiers of the team demonstrate that the Americans serving in Iraq are not the enemy.

They've been able to dispel the myths promoted by the former regime and some of the country's current radical factions, officials said. In doing so the soldiers continue to represent freedom and prosperity to individuals who can clearly look forward to a better future.

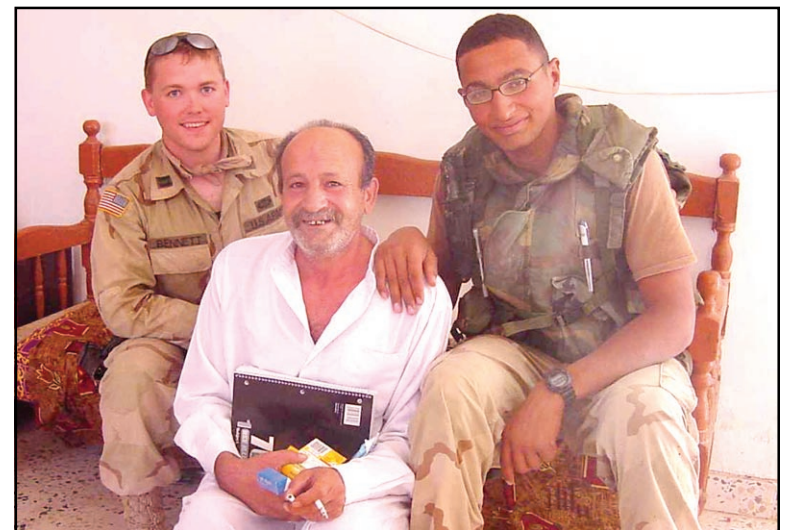


Photo by 1st Lt. Tina Fonde

Capt. Amos R. Bennett (left), HHC, 16th CSG, and Pfc. Ahmed Mahmoud (right), 26th Quartermaster Company, provide the headmaster of the al-Batraa school with desperately needed supplies.